**SUGGESTIONS FOR PREPARING AN EFFECTIVE POSTER:**

1. **Use a high-contrast color scheme**. The background and text colors should contrast one another so that the text stands out, rather than getting lost against the background.
2. **Less text is better!** Keep the text to a minimum and use “text bytes” rather than long paragraphs to explain your work. Few visitors are going to want to do a lot of reading, so don’t overwhelm them with text!
3. **Avoid clutter**. A simple visual presentation is better than a poster with too much “stuff.”
4. **Pictures are good!** They provide visual interest and visitors like to see photos of animals and “action shots” of students doing research.
5. **Compartments make things manageable**. Dividing your poster into distinct sections using borders or rectangles of different colors helps break the poster into more manageable “bytes” for readers.
6. **Design a logical flow of information**. Whether you physically divide the poster into subsections or not, you should arrange the different sections of the poster in a logical way so that it’s easy for readers to move from one section to the next. You may even want to number the different sections (e.g., 1: Introduction, 2: Methods) to help guide them around the poster.
7. **Have some fun!** This is an important forum for presenting your research to the public and you should try to inject some of your enthusiasm for your work into the poster and associated talks with the public.

A FEW ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Several of you asked about authorship. This is your Honors research, so you should be first author! It would be typical to acknowledge the contributions of your faculty sponsor by making them second author. If you have worked closely with a grad student or postdoc (more closely than with your faculty sponsor), you may want to make them second author and put the faculty member third.

For a lot of professional posters, it is standard to put a small picture of yourself in the upper right corner, next to the title. That’s a good way to let visitors know who you are and it helps to personalize your poster.